

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121322
ORIGIN AID-38

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DRAFTED BY AID/AG/OC:WLANE:GH
APPROVED BY AID/AG/OC:WLANE
PM/FSP/A&PM:G BILYEY (DRAFT)
PM/PS/ER:KSMITH
ASIA/PD/PVD:RTRAISTER
AA/ASIA:MHBADLER (SUBS)
MO/OM:MLKELLOGG (INFO)
SER/MP:DCARTER (INFO)
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
7E ACTION AG CHRON 1 2 3 4 8 10 INFO MP IDC PPC 4ASIA OM SMO AGW ES S
ER
SER ERS PERS 38P
-----260425Z 048573 /14
R 252325Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 121322

FOR JOHN T BENNETT, ECON/COMM, FROM WARREN LANE, AID/AG/OC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: VIETNAM AWARDS

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED AN AWARDS PROGRAM FOR ITS EMPLOYEES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE EVACUATION OF VIETNAM. THE COMMITTEE THAT WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE REVIEWED NOMINATIONS OF 43 STATE EMPLOYEES OF WHICH 33 WERE APPROVED FOR AWARDS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE DURING THE EVACUATION. THE APPROVED AWARDS WERE FOR:
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VALOR - 8; DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - 2; SUPERIOR HONOR - 5; MERITORIOUS HONOR - 18. THE STATE COMMITTEE ALSO REVIEWED CONSUL GENERAL AWARD NOMINATIONS OF 31 AID-SAAFO EMPLOYEES AND RECOMMENDED TO AID THAT 23 OF THEM BE APPROVED.

2. IN ORDER ASSURE COMPARABLE AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT

FOR AID EMPLOYEES A GROUP CONSISTING OF GEORGE BILYEU, DAVE CARTER, ROY KELLOGG, BOB TRAISTER AND MYSELF HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES AND TO OBTAIN AND REVIEW NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS. TO MAKE SURE ALL ARE CONSIDERED, WE HAVE OBTAINED LISTINGS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE IN VIETNAM DURING THE EVACUATION OF THE FOUR REGIONS AND SAIGON. ALSO, WE ARE REQUESTING NOMINATIONS

FROM GEORGE JACOBSON AND FORMER USAID/SAIGON OFFICE HEADS. UPON RECEIPT OF THE NOMINATIONS, WE WILL REVIEW THEM ALONG WITH THOSE GIVEN US BY THE STATE COMMITTEE AND THEN WILL REFER ALL NOMINATIONS ALONG WITH OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AGENCY AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR ACTION.

3. IN YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 2, 1977, TO ME, YOU IDENTIFIED THE INDIVIDUALS THAT YOU WANTED TO RECOMMEND. WE WOULD NOW LIKE TO HAVE FORMAL NOMINATIONS. RALPH GLEASON MAY NOT MEET ABOVE CRITERIA BECAUSE HE RETIRED AND LEFT PRIOR TO THE EVACUATION. YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER HIM FOR AN AWARD NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE EVACUATION.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE CRITERIA OF HANDBOOK 29, CHAPTER 5, THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL CRITERIA THE STATE COMMITTEE DEVELOPED AND USED SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN NOMINATING AID EMPLOYEES: IN CONSIDERING NOMINATIONS, THE COMMITTEE WILL FOCUS ATTENTION SOLELY ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING VARIOUS PHASES OF THE EVACUATION, WHICH DATE FROM MID-MARCH TO THE END OF APRIL, 1975. THE COMMITTEE
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WILL NOT RECOMMEND APPROVAL FOR AWARDS BASED ON PERFORMANCE, HOWEVER MERITORIOUS, WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY A CONTINUATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S NORMAL DUTIES, EVEN THOUGH CARRIED OUT UNDER SUBSTANTIAL STRESS. THIS CONSERVATIVE APPROACH IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO AVOID AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE DEBASING THE VALUE AND CREDIBILITY OF THESE AWARDS. A GREAT MANY OF THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO REMAINED IN VIETNAM DURING MARCH AND APRIL PERFORMED IN A HIGHLY CREDITABLE MANNER. TO AWARD THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY EACH WOULD INVOLVE SO MANY AS TO RENDER THE PROCEDURE A MERE GROUP CITATION. HOWEVER, THERE WERE ALSO A MORE LIMITED NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES WHICH DESERVE INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION. THE COMMITTEE FEELS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY AND RANK SUCH PERFORMANCES WITH REASONABLE PRECISION AND FAIRNESS AND WILL SEEK TO RECOGNIZE SUCH ESPECIALLY WORTHY PERFORMANCES THROUGH CONSERVATIVE INTERPRETATION OF AWARDS CRITERIA.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER ADVICE OR SUGGESTIONS

YOU MAY HAVE. IF I CAN BE OF HELP TO YOU IN MAKING
YOUR NOMINATIONS, LET ME KNOW. WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED
OF PROGRESS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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